

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1287

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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USMISSION USUN

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DIA WASHDC

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DEPARTMENT PASS USIA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CY PINT

SUBJ: MARCH 1 GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS

1. SUMMARY: PRESS CONTINUES BELABOR U.S. ON FOUR ISSUES: U-2 AT AKROTIRI, U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SUMMER INVASION, AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN GREEK COUP ATTEMPTS, AND U.S. RESISTANCE TO CYPRIOT CAUSE IN UN. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS GIVES LARGE HEADLINES TO YESTERDAY'S EMBASSY RELEASE AND GOC SPOKESMAN STATEMENT CONCERNING STATIONING OF U-2 AND AMERICAN USAF PERSONNEL AT AKROTIRI SBA. GOC SPOKESMAN STATED THAT "SINCE, AS AP SAYS, BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS AGREE ON ARRANGEMENT FOR PRESENCE AND ACTIVITY OF AMERICAN AIRMEN AT AKROTIRI, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERE IS NO QUESTION FOR GOC." PAPERS ALSO CARRY REUTERS STORY

QUOTING UK FCO "INFORMED SOURCES" COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE. RIGHT-IST MACHI DRAGS OUT LARGE PHOTOS OF HELICOPTERS BEING UNLOADED LAST SPRING AS PART OF SUEZ CANAL CLEARING OPERATION AND TIES WHOLE PACKAGE TOGETHER WITH RED HEADLINES ABOUT "ADMISSION" OF U.S. ACTIVITY ON BASES. CLERIDES-SUPPORTING AGHON CONTINUES TO EDITORIALIZE THAT BEHAVIOR OF DETAINED AMERICANS NEAR GREEN LINE NOT SO INNOCENT. MAKARIOS-SUPPORTER ELEFTHEROS LAOS HYSTERICALLY CALLS FOR DEATH PENALTY FOR SPIES LIKE "FOUR AIRMEN OF TURKISH-SPAWNED KISSINGER." OTHERWISE THEY MAY BE LYNCHED BY RIGHTEOUS WRATH OF THE PEOPLE. PAPER ALSO NOTES THAT SAME AIRCRAFT WHICH SPY IN MIDDLE EAST CAN SPY ON CYPRUS.

3. RADICAL LEFTIST TA NEA AND EXTREME RIGHTIST PATRIS DEVOTE FRONT PAGE TO FUMING OVER "INSULTING" EMBASSY DENIAL OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN SUMMER INVASION. BOTH PAPERS TAKE UMBRAGE AT EMBASSY STATEMENT, CALLING ON AMERICANS TO PROVE THEIR NON-INVOLVEMENT.

4. MOST PAPERS FRONT-PAGE STORIES THAT PRO-JUNTA AND EOKA-B ELEMENTS ARE PREPARING NEW COUP IN CYPRUS IN ATTEMPT FORCE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE ARRESTED PLOTTERS IN GREECE. STORIES CARRY USUAL ALLEGATIONS THAT PLOTTERS ARE BEING FINANCED, INSPIRED, AND MOBILIZED BY CIA AND NATO.

5. ALL PAPERS CARRY UNSC DEVELOPMENTS, NOTING BACKSTAGE EFFORTS BY U.S. TO THWART JUSTICE FOR CYPRUS. IN SHARPLY-WORDED EDITORIAL AGHON CRITICIZES MANNER IN WHICH "SECRETARY KISSINGER BEHAVED BADLY TO CLERIDES," USING STRONG LANGUAGE AND WARNING HIM NEITHER TO EXPECT ANYTHING FROM UNSC NOR PRESS FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION.

6. COMMENT: THESE SHRILL ANTI-AMERICAN THEMES OF LOCAL PRESS ARE EFFECTIVE RED HERRING TO DRAW CYPRIOTS' ATTENTION AWAY FROM FACT THAT THEY ARE PROBABLY NOT GOING TO GET AS MUCH AS THEY WANT FROM UNSC.
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